

Eleventh Report

OF

THE DERBYSHIRE County Pauper Lunatic Asylum.

COMMITTEE OF VISITORS.

SIR HUGH SEYMOUR BLANE, BART., CHAIRMAN.

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SUPERINTENDENT PHYSICIAN... DR. HITCHMAN.

CHAPLAIN THE REV. GEORGE FRITCHE.

CLERK AND STEWARD..... MR. JOHN LANGLEY.

JOHN BARBER,

CLERK OF THE PEACE.

DERBY :

W. AND W. PIKE, PRINTERS, CORN MARKET.



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*To the Justices of the Peace of the County of Derby,
assembled at the General Quarter Sessions of the
Peace, held at Derby on the 1st day of January,
1863.*

The Asylum having been found insufficient to receive the number of Patients seeking for admission, we caused an addition to be made by which sleeping accommodation for Fifty additional Patients was provided. With this addition the accommodation is still inadequate, and we have reluctantly given Notice to the Mayor of the Borough of Derby, to terminate the existing Agreement for the reception into this Asylum, of Patients from that Borough.

The favourable Reports of the Commissioners in Lunacy, of domestic and foreign Visitors, and of a distinguished Medical Periodical, have left to us only the agreeable duty of reporting our oft-expressed approval of the admirable condition and Management of this Asylum.

H. SEYMOUR BLANE,

Chairman.

TO THE COMMITTEE OF VISITORS OF THE
DERBY COUNTY ASYLUM.

GENTLEMEN,

I have to report, that there have been admitted into the Derby County Asylum, during the year 1862, one hundred and eleven Patients ; of these fifty-four were Males and fifty-seven Females ; and there have been discharged—recovered, twenty-nine Males, and twenty-five Females, making a total of fifty-four. In addition to which, seven have been discharged—much relieved. Thus, nearly 50 per cent of Patients, as calculated upon the number of admissions, have been discharged cured, during the past year ; while others have so far recovered as to be considered fit for removal, and placed under the guardianship of their relatives and friends. Three Patients—unimproved, have been removed to other Asylums, or placed under the control of friends, who have proved to the satisfaction of the Committee, that they should be properly taken care of, and prevented from doing harm to themselves, or to others.

The statistics of the past year in a condensed form, are as follows :—

			Total.
Admissions	}	Males 54 Females 57	} 111.
Discharges	}	Males, Recovered ... 29 Females, Recovered... 25	} 54.
Discharges	}	Males, Relieved 4 Females, Relieved ... 3 Males, Unimproved ... 2 Females, Unimproved 1	} 7. } 3.
Deaths	}	Males 27 Females 15	} 42.

In two cases of death, Coroner's Inquests were held—one on a Patient who had fractured his thigh, prior to admission, by jumping from his bed-room window, and who was brought to the Asylum in a state of great debility, from the County Infirmary, and who died from the combined effects of the injury to his leg, and maniacal excitement. The second was of a more painful description, it being a suicide, in the person of a Patient who had been three days only in the Asylum, and who, though described as suicidal (at my request, from an impression I had of his tendency) had never made any direct attempt on his life; had slept alone every night (prior to admission) with razors in his room, and had shaved himself on the morning of the day on which he was admitted. He came to the Asylum with his own full consent; was not displeased at being here; but he was addicted to an exhausting habit, and had so painful a sense of being utterly ruined by it, that I regarded him as unsafe, and gave the necessary instructions to the attendants. Unfortunately, he observed an attendant shaving in a private room; a bell was rung, which the attendant went to answer. Instead of locking up his razor, as he should have done, he placed it behind his looking-glass, left his bed-room, and omitted to lock the door; and the moment was seized by the unhappy Patient to enter the room, grasp the razor, hurry to a water-closet, and effect his purpose. The case in all its painful details was fully investigated by the Committee, and plans laid down under the hope of preventing a like catastrophe.

Coroner's
Inquests.

The number of suicidal Patients admitted during the past year has been very large; and the anxieties of the Superintendent, and the attendants, have been great and continuous from this cause.

The special cause of Death, in the forty other Patients who have died, was as follows:—

From General Paralysis	7	
,, Apoplexy	2	
,, Paralysis and Softening of Brain	5	
,, Epilepsy	6	
,, Exhaustion from Mania	2	
,, Pulmonary Consumption	7	
,, Cancerous Diseases	2	Obituary.
,, Chronic Bronchitis	1	
,, Atrophy of the Heart	1	
,, Syncope	1	
,, Inflammation of Stomach	1	
,, Acute Jaundice	1	
,, Scrofulous Abscesses	1	
,, General Debility	3	
		—40



The Patients admitted have, almost without exception, been in states of great debility, either from long self-imposed abstinence, or from physical disease. Life in many has been sustained only by powerful stimulants ; and several have required the daily use of the Stomach Pump, in order to introduce nutriment into the system, and thus frustrate their morbid design of suicide by starvation, or remove the consequences of some delusion in respect of food.

There now remain in the Asylum—of

Males	153	}
Females	170	

In the month of November last, there were one hundred and seventy-seven Female Patients in the Asylum, being two more than there was convenient accommodation for ; and therefore the various

Unions were requested to write to the Superintendent prior to sending a Female Patient ; but no case has ever been refused admission. A necessity, however, has arisen for further enlargement on the Female side, if the Patients from the Borough of Derby are to be received into the Hospital. The addition made recently to the Asylum, by which fifty Patients were provided with sleeping accommodation, has encroached so much upon the day-rooms, or Wards, that no further increase, by the simple addition of "Dormitories," can be advantageously effected ; but sixteen or eighteen additional Patients could be received if the one-storied building known as the "Infirmary" were raised to the height of the other portions of the Asylum.

It is right that the Court of Quarter Sessions should be reminded that the intelligent members of their body, who were appointed to investigate, and to report upon, the requirements of

Accommodation in Asylum.—this county in respect to the Insane, emphatically recommended that the Asylum should "be constructed to contain three hundred and sixty Patients ;" and they enforced their recommendation by the opinions of the most practical Asylum Superintendents of the kingdom. Among several others, they quote the wise and prescient remarks of Dr. Hitch, the distinguished Physician of the Gloucester Asylum, as follows :—"Dr. Hitch is of opinion, that an Asylum for the County of Derby ought not to provide accommodation, *in the first instance*, for fewer than three hundred and sixty Patients, and, even with provision to this extent, *he confidently predicts*, that in the course of a few years, the building *must either be enlarged*, or, some of the incurables dismissed, as has uniformly happened elsewhere." Unhappily, this wise council, accepted, and urged in 1844, by the Committee appointed by Sessions (namely, by J. Oakes, Esq., W. L. Clowes, Esq., and Thomas Bent, M.D.), was over-ruled by the then Commissioners in Lunacy, and the Asylum was built for three hundred only. This grave deficiency cannot

now be supplied so as to render the Institution equally efficient, without much cost and great inconvenience. Had the cures in this Hospital been as few, as from unavoidable causes, they have been in some Asylums, this deficiency of accommodation would long ago have been mischievously felt. On the 21st of August, 1851, the Asylum received its first Patient, and one thousand three hundred and eighteen have since been admitted, and treated. Many of these were, of course, idiotic, chronic, and incurable ; but, as the notion, that Insanity is generally an incurable Disease, is so prevalent in this County, I may, perhaps, be permitted to state, that since the opening of the Asylum, eighty Patients have been discharged so much improved, as to no longer need the control of an Asylum ; while four hundred and ninety seven others have been restored to health and reason, and fitted to resume again the labours and duties of active life.

Cures.

I hope that the Court of Quarter Sessions will, at no distant day, be pleased to adopt the suggestion, which has been made by the Commissioners in Lunacy, and cause a Chapel to be built upon the Asylum grounds for the use of the Patients. The present room which is devoted to Chapel purposes, is too small, and inconvenient, and is not in harmony with the other portions of the Building. Were this deficiency remedied, the Institution would be more worthy of the eulogy recently bestowed upon it in the pages of a widely diffused medical journal—*The Lancet*—to the effect, that “ Such Asylums as those of Bethlehem, DERBY, and Leicester are as good specimens of Institutions for the Insane as any State can as yet exhibit.” Vol. 11, page 424.

Chapel.

The Asylum was visited, and inspected by two of her Majesty’s Commissioners in Lunacy, in January last, and a summary of their highly favourable Report was given to the Sessions by the Committee of Visiting Justices, at the Meeting of the 8th of April, 1862.

The privilege granted by the Committee of Visitors to the nurses and attendants to visit the International Exhibition, was much appreciated and enjoyed.

The Thursday Evening Amusements, consisting of select Readings, Dancing, Songs, Whist, and Magic Lantern Exhibitions, have been continued as heretofore ; and, in addition, three Dramatic Performances have been given with great success.

The Christmas Eve Entertainment has been very fully, and very flatteringly detailed by the local press : it may suffice to state, that as usual it was followed by beneficial effects, all the Patients present being, for some days afterwards, more than usually cheerful, orderly, and industrious.

On Christmas Day each Patient was bountifully supplied with good plum-pudding and roast beef.

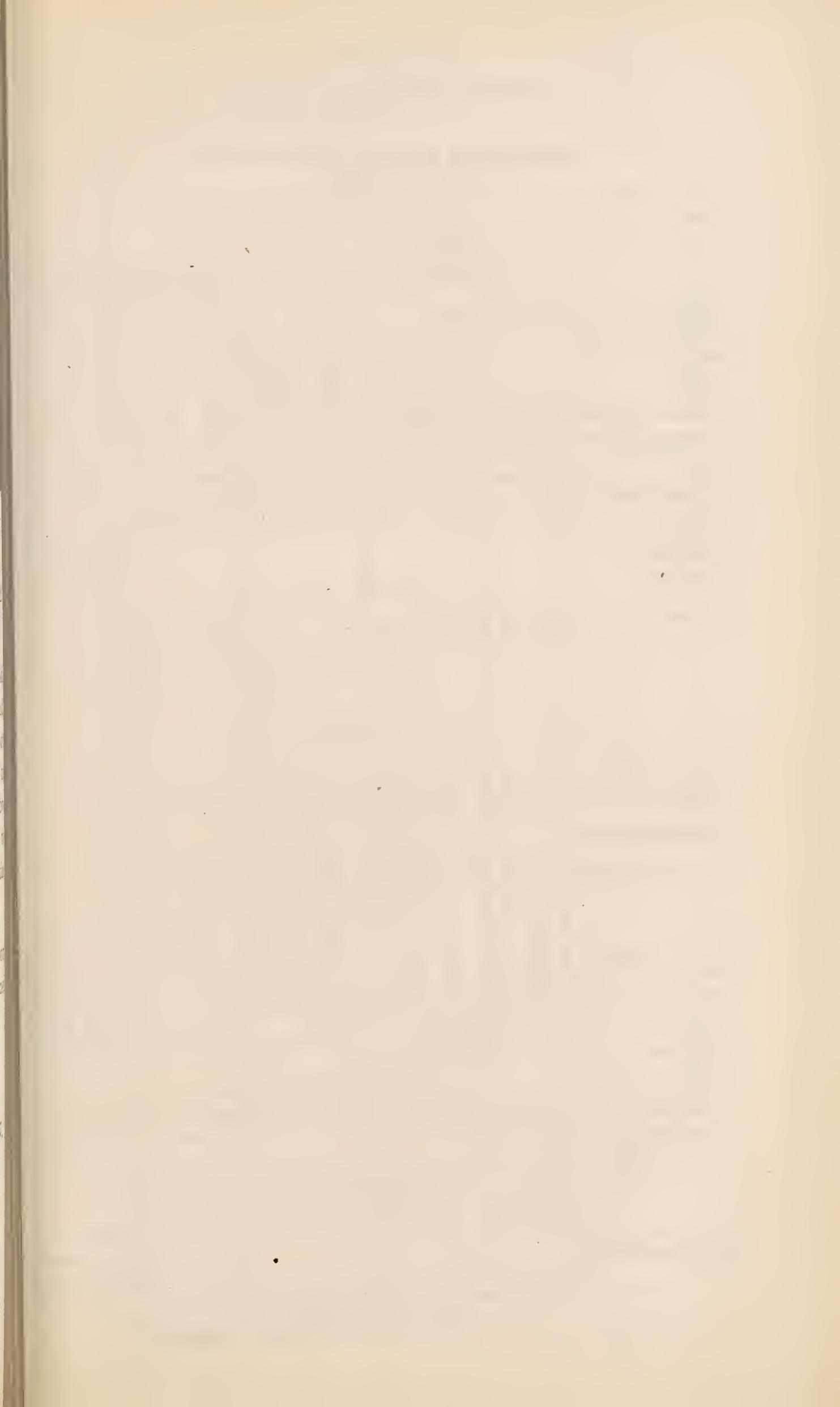
I am happy to state that the conduct of the Officers and Servants of the Institution entitles them to my cordial thanks ; and I have been largely indebted to the talents, industry, and zeal of Dr. Crichton Browne, who, with the permission of the Committee of Visitors, assisted me during the past six months, but who has now left the Asylum. Mr. Langley, the Clerk and Steward, continues to act with energy, and with an appreciative sense of the value of the non-Restraint system in the treatment of the Insane.

In conclusion, I desire to record my deep obligations to you, the Committee of Visitors, for the aid, the courtesy, and council which you have at all times afforded me, and am,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN HITCHMAN.

January 5th, 1863.



DERBY COUNTY ASYLUM.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FROM THE 1ST JANUARY TO THE 31ST DECEMBER, 1862.

Examined.

(Signed)

CHARLES EDMUND NEWTON
L. E. MANN.

JOHN Langley,
CLERK & STEWARD.

General Statement of Receipts and Payments between January 1st and December 31st, 1862.

DR.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	CR.
Balance in Treasurer's hands on the 31st December, 1861	195	5	4				Tradesmen for Supplies to the 31st of December, 1861
Ditto in Steward's hands	76	4	3				1412 10 3
							Officers' Salaries to ditto
							200 0 0
							<hr/>
RECEIPTS.							1612 10 3
Sundry Sales	56	18	10				PAYMENTS.
Officers' Uniform	19	0	0				Provisions
							House and other Expenses
							Clothing
Maintenance of Patients from Unions and Parishes belonging to this County	717	7	2				Salaries and Wages
County Treasurer	94	6	3				Extras for Sick
Unions and Parishes belonging to Out Connies	381	1	6				Supplies to Farm and Garden
Private Patients	229	0	0				Balance in Treasurer's hands on the 31st December, 1862
Funerals	25	10	0				Ditto in Steward's ditto
							<hr/>
							7775 12 8
Accounts due to Tradesmen for Supplies to the 31st December, 1862	154	2	4				244 18 5
Officers' Salaries to Ditto	200	0	0				<hr/>
							2123 12 7
							<hr/>
							£11,756 13 11

Examined.
Signed { CHARLES EDMUND NEWTON.
L. E. MANN.

JOHN LANGLEY,
Clerk and Steward.

ARTICLES MADE BY THE FEMALE PATIENTS,

Between the 1st January and 31st December, 1862.

Aprons.	230	1377	123	136	5	161	168	288	51	35	44	308	18	219	27	431	15	13	35	159	384	388	44	121	260	34	373
Birds.																											
Bonnets.																											
Bolster Cases.																											
Boot Upplers.																											
Bed Quilts.																											
Caps, Wom'n's.																											
Chemises.																											
Curtains.																											
Carpets.																											
Covers.																											
Drawers.																											
Do. Night.																											
Gowns.																											
Handkerchiefs.																											
Mantles.																											
Mattress Cases.																											
Pillow Cases.																											
Petticoats.																											
Sheets.																											
Shirts.																											
Stockings.																											
Stockings, Knitted.																											
Table Cloths.																											
Towels.																											

The whole of the Clothing and Bedding for the Patients is Made and Repaired in the Asylum.

SUPPLIES TO THE HOUSE FROM THE FARM AND GARDEN

During the Year ending December 31, 1862.

ORDINARY DIET.

Workers $\frac{1}{2}$ pint Beer extra at 11 o'clock a.m., and at 4 o'clock p.m.

Laundry Women, & pint Beer, with Bread and Cheese, at 11 o'clock a.m., and $\frac{1}{2}$ pint Beer at 4 o'clock p.m.
Great additions are made to the above table; Epileptic, palsied, aged, and weakly Patients are allowed extra diet, such as Pounded Meat, Fish, Rice, Egg, Tapioca, Sago, and Arrowroot Puddings; with Porter, Brandy, or Wine, under the direction of the Superintendent-Physician.

DERBY COUNTY ASYLUM.

Average Weekly Cost

OF

MAINTENANCE, MEDICINE, CLOTHING, AND
CARE OF PATIENTS,

During the Year ending December 31, 1862.

	£.	s.	d.
Provisions	0	4	4½
Clothing	0	0	7½
Salaries and Wages.....	0	2	3¾
Necessaries, Fuel, Light, and Washing.....	0	0	10¾
Surgery and Dispensary	0	0	0¾
Wine, Spirits, and Porter	0	0	2½
Furniture and Bedding	0	0	6
Garden and Farm	0	0	2½
Miscellaneous, viz.—Rates and Taxes, Periodicals, Printing, Stamps, Stationery, Carriage of Goods, and Insurance	0	0	3½
	0	9	5
Less Receipts from Sales	0	0	1
	0	9	4

Average Daily Number of Patients, 318.

